

U.Said.It!

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D&G

Women politicians plan for future elections

How to improve women's performance in future elections was a major topic at a one-day All-Women Politicians Congress held May 24 in Osogbo, Osun State. Organized by NUJ Osun, a JHU/CCP DG partner, the event featured 230 participants, including 88 women politicians from 30 local government areas of the state.

Also in attendance were the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Hon. Mojeed Alabi; Special Adviser to the state govern-

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• Orphans (sitting) in Ogobia Ugboju in Otukpo LG of Benue State, one of the communities where the Vulnerable Children Project is located

HIV/AIDS

Care for orphans

As part of a continuing effort to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS CEDPA/Nigeria kicked off a Vulnerable Children

Project to focus on orphans in Otukpo and Okpokwu local government areas of Benue State. The project is to tackle the social impact on the

Bites from the CAs...

BASICS

■ BASICS/Nigeria has begun implementing its second phase private sector participation project using Community partners for Health. Tagged BASICS II, the new project will strengthen routine immunization and extend the focus areas of the BASICS project from 9 to 20 LGAs in Lagos, Kano and Aba.

JHU/CCP

■ A D&G theme song and video will be launched July 26 at Excellence Hotel, Lagos. The theme song was chosen by a panel of eminent musicians from numerous entries by NGOs. The song is recorded onto CD and is expected to be used as an anthem during DG mobilization and training activities and as a media signature tune.

FHI

Humane Health Organization (HHO) has selected a project advisory committee (PAC) for its Care and Support Group. HHO is collaborating with eight hospitals in Onitsha as a referral centers for PLWA. The PAC is to advise the care and support group and provide it with comments from PLWA and PABA. Each of the eight collaborating hospitals has two members in the PAC.

CEDPA

The 1999 CEDPA Annual Report is in production, to be released in August. It focuses on youth and offer a two-page stylized timeline to highlight 15 Great 1999 CEDPA Moments. It will include contributions from CEDPA offices worldwide.

CHILD SURVIVAL Pilot test for routine immunization

Community Partners for Health (CPH), community-based organizations that mobilize community resources for human development, are the focus of a pilot test to achieve and sustain high levels of routine immunization coverage for the six childhood killer diseases. The pilot by BASICS/Nigeria is a USAID/Nigeria funded initiative in 20 local government areas of Abia, Kano and Lagos states. Nine LGAs have CPHs in place while the others would be assisted to develop community

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immediate dependants, particularly children of HIV/AIDS victims.

Specifically, the target beneficiaries of the project are AIDS orphans under the age of 15 years. This group is most at risk; and can benefit most from strategies that enable them to enjoy health care facilities, stay in school, learn skills to generate income and assist their families learn how to protect themselves and live positively.

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Role reversal drama teaches gender sensitivity

Instances Communications, a JHU/CCP DG partner, performed two plays on gender sensitivity, *The Inversion* and *The Dialog*, to school audiences in Bauchi, in February. Both plays generated strong reactions from the audiences in three educational institutions who watched traditional male domination roles reversed.

On February 24 and 25 at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, 575 students witnessed both plays and expressed their feelings about the drama. Male students charged that Adesuwa, the heroine of *Inversion*, was too harsh on her husband. A female in the audience who pleaded for more understanding of women was shouted down. A male member of the audience spoke the minds of the others: "Thank God it is



•Scene from *The Inversion* drama

only a dream. May such a dream never become a reality." Loud applause greeted his declaration.

Members of Instances Communications Resource Center engaged the audience on the need for dialog as a

means of resolving social tensions. They tried to convince the university students audience that their thinking was in-

Women politicians plan for future elections

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nor on Women's Affairs, Mrs. Nike Omowore-Agunbiade, who represented the governor; Hon. Omobonike Arike Tejuosho, sole female member of the State House of Assembly; Mrs. Funmi Olaseinde-Mustapha, sole female chair of a local government in the state; representatives from the three political parties and the state electoral commission, prominent women market leaders and executives of the NUJ Osun, the state chapter of Nigeria Union of Journalists. Dr. Akilu Indabawa, JHU/CCPNigeria DG Coordinator represented Mr.

Bola Kusemiju, Country Director. Dr. Wunmi Ogunsola, Ibadan Field Office Manager, also attended the big event.

Seven guidelines for future participation of women in politics were proposed by the congress. First is the formation of more NGOs on women issues to mobilize women constituencies during electoral campaigns. Second, a recruitment drive and political education of women and the public to infuse more women into party memberships. Third, educated women and retired women professionals should be encouraged to get into grassroots politics and community development efforts.

Other guidelines are that women should organize within each party and be represented in party positions at ward and

local government levels to ensure that women secure party nominations; to be prepared for a long struggle for political empowerment and involve their husbands and families in their political lives; to utilize public offices held by women to represent women interests and mentor younger women for political participation; and women party leaders, NGO leaders and the NUJ should collaborate to continue the campaign for women's political empowerment.

The congress was the last activity in the NUJ Osun DG subproject and provided a forum to review the achievements and lessons learned. Princess Betty Bakare, a member of NUJ Osun's project advisory committee recounted how the NUJ and a network of NGOs in the state lobbied the state government to restore the Ministry of Women Affairs headed by a woman member of

the Cabinet. She also noted that there are now 14 women councilors in the 30 LGAs of the state, up from eight. Third, the political parties have reported increased enquiries from women interested in joining them, with the PDP reporting an increase of 20 percent in women attending their ward meetings.

Other activities already concluded in the subproject included training for print and broadcast journalists and NGO workers on women's rights issues and media advocacy for women's political empowerment. As well, advocacy visits were paid to key media managers, a series of radio phone-in discussions were held and a TV drama serial was aired on women's political empowerment. Members of NUJ Osun also published several newspaper articles promoting women political empowerment and highlighting women in public office.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

■ July 4	US Independence Day
■ September 4	Labor Day
■ October 1	Independence Day
■ October 9	Columbus Day

Women support lacking from men

At the Women Support Coalition Workshop, organized by the Oyo State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists, November 12, 1999, men spoke their minds on issues of women's political rights, women's participation, status of Nigerian women or supporting women's cause.

In attendance were the Oyo State Deputy Governor, Barrister Iyiola Oladokun, the Speaker; the state Commissioner of Information, Youth, Sports and Culture, Dr. Kola Thomas and representatives of 20 other NGOs.

The workshop first restated the history of Affirmative Action followed by a succinct discussion of the 1995 Beijing Conference. JHU/CCP's *A Frame for Advocacy*, which would enable the Coalition to conveniently give an effective voice to otherwise voiceless women of the state, was thoughtfully explained to participants. Every man there seemed to have listened with rapt attention. Four subcommittees were later formed to examine Women Representation (politics and recruitment), Implementation of Affirmative Action, Women Participation in Micro-level and Networking. It was expected that the committees would dispel misconceptions about women's issues.



militarization of the country but were rebuffed by the students' insistence that violence achieves results. However, on a one-on-one discussion, the same students admitted that they were afraid of defending peaceful solutions in public lest they be regarded as weaklings. The interim secretary of the Students Union Government stated: "I accept and agree that rational dialog is the most effective means of conflict resolution, but if I accept that in public my congress will lynch me."

The plays were on stage at Federal Government Girls College, February 26-27 and School of Nursing and Midwifery, February 28-29. At FGGC 3,547 people, mostly female students, watched both plays. They were critical of *The Inversion* and did not connect emotionally with *The Dialog*. They indicated that *The Inversion* should have been resolved on a point of forgiveness from the woman when she became the head of the home. They demonstrated certain points in the

pated in it.

At the School of Nursing, 275 watched both plays, due to persistent power cuts during the staging. The audience was not comfortable with the theme of role reversal. There was little discussion of how they felt about the play and they appeared to be largely embarrassed by the theme. An official of the school summed it up: "Though your campaign will be difficult to sell you should continue and spread it to more places. The impact of what you are doing will take time to show."

In all, the staging of the plays attracted varied responses from different audiences. The secondary school students were more involved in the drama though not fully accepting the dramatization of the themes whereas the Nursing students appeared to shy away from a discussion of gender issues. At the other end, the university students appeared to reject the alternative viewpoint of political dialog as a means of resolving conflicts.



• Women stand up for empowerment

However, at subsequent People's Forums, organized in five LGAs to create awareness of women's political rights and provide an opportunity for dialogue between elected officials and their constituents, it emerged that men are uncomfortable with women's political empowerment. Friday, January 14, 2000, the Chairman, Ibadan South East LGA, Mr. Akinbile told journalists and members of the community that he appointed a woman as supervisory councilor and another on a board. The reaction of men? They argued that women as a group did not merit the posts. However, the chairman replied: "what I have done, I have done."

January 18, Ibadan North West LGA where Hon. Adewolu Oluokun is chairman, hosted NUJ. The LGA has no female councilor or supervisory councilor. It also has no female member of any board. Why? The Chairman was asked. His response: "My party played a prominent role in political appointments. We compensated those who made our victory possible. Women did not feature well during the past electioneering campaign."

However, at Iresaadu, Surulere LGA, on March 1, the chairman, Prince Akin Adeleke Ajala, ironically described women as "the backbone of families" but does not see why women should be involved in politics because to him, "the concept of Affirmative Action is alien to Africa."

Pilot test for routine immunization

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driven CPHs to assist in the pilot and other health issues.

The pilot builds on the gains of USAID assistance to the National Immunization Days (NIDs). The NIDs were special days set aside annually, within which a massive immunization drive was carried out across the country. Coverage figures in excess of 98 percent were frequently reported in the NIDs, while routine immunization has fallen to about 30 percent. The challenge now is to boost routine immunization to a very high and sustainable rate and eliminate the need for special immunization drives.

To introduce the pilot to the target communities BASICS/Nigeria has engaged in a series of visitations, involving meetings and discussions with CPH and LGA officials, since April. In Aba, Abia State, where Aba South LGA has a CPH, a meeting was held with community leaders at the Aba North LGA Secretariat to introduce the CPH model, seek private and public sector collaboration for strengthening routine immunization, identify opportunities for developing a quick CPH model and facilitate grassroots participation in immunization services and identify collaboration strategies, logistics and problems. CPH officials from Aba South LGA attended the meeting to offer solutions and collaboration to their neighbor LGA.

In Lagos five of the selected nine LGAs have CPHs. LGA and CPH officials met at each LGA with BASICS/Nigeria representatives to discuss the CPH experience with the LGAs and explore such other areas as community mobilization for child survival issues, using D&G program to educate the community of their right to child health, breastfeeding initiatives, family

planning, environmental sanitation and information sharing between CPHs and government.

LGA officials applauded the CPH model and stated that they have enjoyed working with CPHs in the area of immunization and would continue to support them. They called on the CPHs to assist the government disseminate the statewide initiative on private-sector participation in refuse collection. The CPHs, they said, can be instrumental in educating the public on the sanitation project and other areas. They also advised

by understanding and accepting the concept. The Secretary of Dala LGA further told the group that Dala LGA has many philanthropists and retired civil servants but they never knew they are resources they can make use of, but with the advocacy from BASICS, they now see the importance of retired civil servants and they will start utilising them for the development of their community.

Strategies were identified for immediate implementation:

- Setting up a working committee in all the LGAs with members from both LGA and

and organised to form a mini-CPH, that will assist in pushing routine immunisation forward in a progressive manner.

Dr. Bulama, National NPI Zonal Co-ordinator (North West) assured the group on the availability of vaccines. Major problems faced by the program, he said, are that states are always reluctant to come for their vaccines and the LGAs don't give statistics.

During the visit to Dala LGA the Secretary was impressed and pledged on behalf of the LGA to seriously and urgently looked into the issue of lack of cold store and a Generator in the LGA for the survival of their children. In Gwale LGA the Chairman responded by pledging to work hard to reduce child mortality using the CPH approach. In Tsanyawa LGA the Chairman expressed his willingness by promising to mobilise all the necessary resources within the community to make the program a success, while in Kabo LGA the Secretary pledged that, primary health care committee will accomplish its task before the team's next visit and finally in Bebeji LGA the Chairman pledged to give full co-operation to the program.

How the new CPHs would be mobilized is part of the agenda of the next round of meetings of LGAs, CPHs and BASICS/Nigeria in Lagos, Kano and Abia. Other issues to be discussed at the meetings will include the implementation process for the pilot, logistics, training, CPH and LGA interface, counterpart funding of the project and developing a memorandum of understanding to be signed by the three parties in each LGA.

The routine immunization pilot project is an 18-month initiative for strengthening immunization services during the USAID/Nigeria transition period ending June 2001.



• BASICS' Resident Advisor Dr. Oluropo Ayodele (left) and Evaluation Officer Dr. Hezekiah Adesina (center) inspect inner city area of Aba

that CPH women members could benefit from government-operated home management courses, income generation activities, adult education and youth development centers.

In Kano State, three of the nine LGAs selected for the pilot have CPHs. The test in the state will encourage the formation of six new CPHs in the other LGAs. In all the meetings 16-29 participants were in attendance and the composition was USAID/BASICS Staff and the LGA executives. The team briefed the LGAs on the background and concept of the CPH model, using community resources to solve community's health problem. The LGA Chairmen present together with the representatives of those absent responded

CPH. Members of the LGA were, PHC Co-ordinator, NPI Manger including other staff example Head of community development department and Information Officer. Where there is District development committee or Village health committee one of these committees was advised to be used especially when the committee is very active and if not it can be revived depending on what the LGA wants.

- A working agreement will be developed (MOU) where roles and responsibilities will be spelt out.

- In LGAs where there are no CPHs private health facilities, community-based organisations and patent medicine vendors will be identified

U.S. assistance saves women's lives

Full text of address by CEDPA/Nigeria's Country Director, Dr. Enyantu Ifenne, to the US Congress, April 7, 2000

Mr. President, Madam Secretary, Honorable members of Congress, Distinguished Guests.

United States government support for family planning makes a world of difference in the lives of women, children and communities in Nigeria.

The real human face of the social and economic crises in Nigeria is the face of *women*. In Kebbi in the north, Jamela aged 15, married at twelve, pregnant at thirteen. She was in labor for 4 days. The village barber cuts through her bladder and rectum. At fifteen she constantly leaks urine and faeces. She was lucky. Thousands die. Many more are permanently handicapped.

Maria lives in a community in Benue State where one out of every five people is HIV positive. Age 32, she has five children, 6 months ago her sister and brother-in-law died of AIDS leaving 6 children. "God please bail me out..." She has an intra uterine contraceptive device and will benefit from the USAID orphan care project.

In Imo state in the Southeast, a goat is slaughtered and there is a celebration when a woman delivers her 10th child. Chinyere aged 28, has seen many women die during childbirth. She has 3 children and determined not to have more. She has access to contraceptives. She says, "I am able to do things I could not do before. I run my business. My husband is happy." Her empowerment makes a world of difference in the lives of her three children.

With USAID support, we have family planning and de-



•Dr Ifenne speaks at the White House, with President Bill Clinton and Congresswoman Carolyn Malone

“Family planning has released the energies of women. It has catalyzed selfless contributions to communities. Thousands of civil society groups have been activated and are committed to the much-needed economic and social reforms.”

mocracy and governance programs linked. This has generated broader impact. For example, women networks mobilized 6.5 million women for national immunization and had 36,000 children immunized in 2 days. During Nigeria's last election, our family planning networks registered 2.3 million women as voters.

Rahab lives in Bauchi in the North. Her three sons go to school. Her daughters are kept at home. After attendance at a women's rights training. She decided to send her daughter Ruth to school. Ruth is twelve, her marriage will be delayed and

a traumatic obstetric experience prevented. In the same community, advocacy by women's networks doubled the enrollment of girls in primary school.

Dorcas' niece in Edo State bled and died after her genital was cut as a premarital ceremony. Dorcas is a member of women networks supported by USAID. Through their effort a bill was passed in Oct. 1999, which makes Female Genital Mutilation a criminal offence in Edo State.

Your support enables women to use newly created democratic space to transform

their lives. I believe that the global gag rule imposed by the US Congress stifles robust debates on women's reproductive rights in developing countries. It is retrogressive. It is repressive. It is, indeed, undemocratic.

May I conclude with my favorite quote. On International Women's day 1997, the First Lady, Hilary Clinton says and I quote,

“... We may need to be reminded that democracy is not just about legally protected rights, elections, or

free market economies. It is about the internalization of democratic values in people's hearts and minds... Democracy is rooted in people's everyday lives.”

After 40 years of stricture, Nigerians are anxious to experience the dividends of democracy in their everyday lives. Your support resonates this aspiration in communities. Family planning has released the energies of women. It has catalyzed selfless contributions to communities. Families have prospered. Communities have been enriched as they created space for women. Thousands of civil society groups have been activated and are committed to the much-needed economic and social reforms.

I urge you to scale up your support and investment in family planning programs. We need you to stay the course of structure as we take tentative steps to nurture and sustain democracy in Nigeria.

Mr. President, Madam Secretary, Honorable members of Congress, distinguished guests: I thank you for your attention.



• *Social mobilization: Billboard for National Immunization Days*

SNIDS in 5 states

Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) will be conducted in Kogi, Kwara, Kano, Nigerian and Nassarawa states and the federal capital, July 29 to August 4; JHU/CCP again leads the social mobilization efforts of the NIDs by providing assistance in radio jingle production and broadcast in the five states.

JHU/CCP is the secretariat of the social mobilization sub-committee of the Inter-

Agency Coordinating Committee, comprising Federal Ministry of Health, National Program on Immunization, USAID/Nigeria, UNICEF and other donor agencies. JHU/CCP also provides secretarial support for the social mobilization sub-committee.

FHI team attends AIDS Conference

Six persons are attending the 13th World AIDS Conference coming up in Durban,

South Africa, July 9-14, at the behest of Family Health International/Nigeria. The Resident Advisor, Dr. Olufemi Oke, is leading the FHI/Nigeria delegation. It includes Mr. Adamu Imam, Cluster Manager North/Kano; Mrs. Dora Ofobrukeweta, Project Manager, Life Link Organization (LLO), Mrs. Ugo N. Uduma, Safe Motherhood Ladies Association, Abakaliki, Hajiya Amina Mohammed, Project Manager, Muslim Sisters Organization (MSO), Kano and Samuel Bada, representative of Council of Positive People (COPOP). COPOP is a network of people living with HIV/AIDS. It is affiliated to the IMPACT sub-project being implemented by the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa – Nigeria (SWAAN-Kano). MSO implements HIV/AIDS/STI prevention intervention amongst Islamic school youth and women attending Koranic Schools in Kano while LLO is presently implementing HIV/AIDS/STI prevention intervention amongst sex workers

in 70 brothels in Lagos, SMLAS is implementing the Home-Based Care Support Project in Abakaliki.

While in Durban, the six participants will share information on workable strategies in HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation. They will also participate in the Nigeria NGOs Forum as well as the 3rd International HIV Prevention Works Symposium that is co-sponsored by FHI, USAID and 10 other South African and international organizations. The Symposium will provide an international forum to profile advances and issues in HIV prevention policy formulation, program planning and research.

The theme of the conference is "Break the Silence." It hopes to focus on obstacles to global efforts to turn the tide of HIV epidemic. These include: complacency, ignorance and denial which are still common in many countries, inequalities in access to care, tardiness in the development of HIV vaccines and vaginal microbicides, lack of commitment in providing resources for research, education and public health interventions.



• At a 100 Women Group training workshop on Gender and Development, Mr. Eric Shu, the resource person (standing) facilitates a small group discussion. CEDPA/Nigeria organized the workshop in collaboration with Northern Cross River Women Association (NCRSWA) in Calabar, October 19-22, 1999



• Participants explore options in gender and development issues in a small group session at the workshop

Youths rally for AIDS Day

As the national average prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS continues to increase in the country, CEDPA/Nigeria joined hands in the campaign against the spread of the killer disease.

To mark the AIDS Day, CEDPA in collaboration with some of its partners in the Southwest, Southeast and Northern clusters, held rallies to raise awareness on the danger of the disease.

YORDEL Africa held the southeast cluster rally in Enugu while the Rahama-organized rally was held in Dass, about 60 km from Bauchi in northern cluster, with funds provided by CEDPA. In the southwest cluster, UNIVA held the awareness rally in Ibadan in collaboration with CEDPA.

During the rallies, public lectures were held at designated points with IEC materials and condoms distributed apart from posters and banners that were hung and posted at strategic locations in the towns.

Youths were particularly involved for these rallies to show that they can play very crucial roles in fighting the HIV/AIDS scourge when adequately sensitized, empowered and mobilized.

COCIN expands women's access to services

COCIN Women Fellowship in Plateau State is implementing, till January 31, 2001, an ENABLE subproject to increase women's decision-making and access to acceptable reproductive health services in Plateau State. This is in response to an earlier commissioned



• Youths in the YORDEL Africa-organized rally in Enugu



• Secondary school students receive leaflets at the 1999 World AIDS Day rally in Dass, Toro LGA, Bauchi State

study to look into the effects of linking D&G with Health and how women's decision-making if advanced can increase their access to Reproductive Health services.

The project will be located in seven local governments, with training activities to be carried out only in six of these. These will include training of Community-Based Distributors (CBDs), Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), Community-Based Advocates (CBAs), male counselors and clinical service providers and their roles in service delivery.

Project activities that have been concluded so far include a stakeholders meeting at Plateau Hotels, Jos, Plateau State on December 7, 1999 and a start-up workshop held December 8-9. During the stakeholders meeting, CEDPA Nige-

ria explained that linkages of health with health-related programs or interventions provide benefits to the community. Health projects are better implemented when linked with a related programs. For example, better health status for women and children with better education standard which indicate the need to link adult mass education with health programs.

Management skills for NGO women leaders

NGO women leaders had the opportunity to improve their managerial skills at a training workshop organized by CEDPA in collaboration with the Christian Urban and Rural Development Associa-

tion of Nigeria (CRUDAN).

The workshop took place in CRUDAN's secretariat, Bukuru, Jos, the Plateau State capital, November 2-5, 1999.

The training program focused on accountability and transparency, gender and development, networking and coalition building, fund-raising and resource mobilization and reproductive health issues.

Some of the objectives of the training workshop are to acquaint the NGO leaders with the issues that constitute a major focus for the entrenchment of good governance, and strategize on ways in which these concerns can be included in their work plan for effective implementation. It will also sharpen their skills in their development activities.

The issue of transparency and accountability was highly stressed especially as it affects the NGOs since they (NGOs) would not have the moral right and strength to call on the government to be transparent and accountable when they themselves are not accountable to their members.

NGO women leaders were expected, at the end of the workshop to go back to their various organizations to replicate the knowledge and skills acquired.

Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAA) Abuja; CRUDAN; National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), Jos; COCIN Women Fellowship, Jos; Rahama Women Co-operative Society, Bauchi; and Nigerian Christian AIDS Network (NICAN), Jos were among the NGOs that benefited from the training workshop.

The wife of the Plateau State Governor, Mrs. Valentine Dariye, opened the workshop.

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NAWOJ states history, achievements

In a new book, Enugu State chapter of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) takes a 10-year look at itself and restates its achievements. The 14-page book, *History Activities & Achievements*, written by its chairperson Miriam Menkiti, recounts the emergence of NAWOJ Enugu from NAWOJ Anambra after the creation of new states

in 1991 and discusses its activities in eight broad areas. Prime attention is given in the book to NAWOJ Enugu's partnership with JHU/CCP in capacity building, women's political education, civic education, polio eradication and strengthening women's participation in decision making.

Other activities and achievements discussed include organizing public enlightenment forums and semi-

nars on social issues as well as workshops for its membership; Instituting a merit award for recognizing people who have made positive contributions to the community; instituting a prize for the best graduating female student of mass communication at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Also discussed as major achievements are securing and opening an office location at the Enugu Press Center, organizing a nationwide tour for its members to enable them appreciate the diversity of the country, holding four elections in 1989, 1992, 1997, 1999 and networking with international donors to state governments, other organizations and international donors.

The book provides a concise view of NAWOJ Enugu's contributions to elevate women journalists beyond the call of the profession.

New D&G initiatives from CEDPA

At the dawn of a new millennium, CEDPA/Nigeria is proposing some new initiatives aimed at strengthening its D&G program under the ENABLE Project. The infrastructure already built by CEDPA during the D&G

Phases I, II & III programs will be deployed to implement the new initiatives.

The initiatives will be on two levels. The first level is to Engender Legislative Issues (ELI) with the aim of bringing women issues into the legislative agenda both at the state and national levels.

CEDPA will create seven points of application at this level of the new initiative, with one at the national and one each in six states spread across the six geopolitical zones in the country.

The long-term plan is to ensure that successful bills are replicated in geographically and culturally similar states.

The second level of the D&G new initiative is to create Model of Local Government Councils (LGCs) in order to catalyze emergence of models of good governance at grassroots level and the LGCs.

The objectives of creating the LGCs include promoting fiscal accountability and transparency, civil society participation in processes and structures of governance and constructive engagement between governance and civil society.

To ensure a proper and smooth take off of the new initiative, CEDPA held consultations with partners –

Saving women's lives is a priority, say Clinton, Ifenne and Malone

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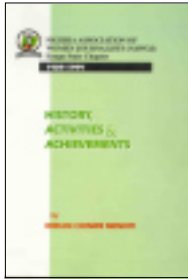
urged the US Congress to increase support and investment in family planning programs. "We need you to stay the course of structure as we take tentative steps to nurture and sustain democracy in Nigeria," Dr Ifenne concluded.

In his speech to the Congress at the occasion, President Bill Clinton stated that he had proposed an increase of \$169 million in USAID's international family planning assistance, and \$25 million to support the U.N. Population Fund, to return America's support for family planning around the world to the level it ought to be. He reiterated that family planning is a vital part of the democratic empowerment focus of the US as it "allows women and families to make their own choices and plan their own futures." President Clinton stated that the US has an interest in seeking safe, voluntary family planning and saving human lives, and in supporting such around the world. He urged Congress to provide funding without restrictions that hamper the work of family planning organizations and bar them from discussing or debating reproductive health choices.

Congresswoman Carolyn Malone, who also spoke at the event asked rhetorically: "every day, we in government face problems for which there are no known solutions: such as environmental challenges like Global warming, diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer and Parkinson's and the AIDS crisis. But family planning presents a different challenge: we already have the answer, we know what works. The question is, do we have the will?"

She added that one-sixth of the world's six billion population are aged 15 to 25 and one third are even younger than that. Together they make family planning a significant issue. "Will those of child bearing age have unrestricted access to the family planning they need? Will the youngest children, the girls especially, get any education at all?"

Congresswoman Malone stated that family planning is not just an aid issue but also an environmental and economic reality. She advised that US funding of international family planning will have a profound impact on America's future, on the future of the world and slow down environmental degradation. "And, every minute of every day," she concluded, "it will save women's lives. We must meet that challenge."



Care for orphans

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As part of the take off of the project, stakeholders in the project met on November 10, 1999 in Otukpo. Local government chairmen, traditional rulers, primary and secondary school heads in the two LGAs where the project is located were among those who attended the stakeholders meeting. CEDPA used the forum to explain the implementation strategy to its NGO partners, local government officials and community members.

The project is to spread the message that the HIV/AIDS scourge is not only a medical issue but also a social malaise. Benue State, with a prevalence rate of 16.8 percent, and the highest HIV prevalence rate of 22.6 percent in Otukpo, makes a good start-off location for the project.

NCWS and FIDA – which will implement the program.

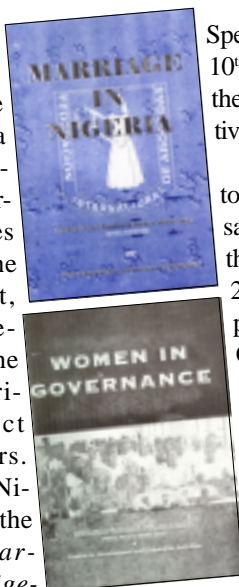
Discussion at the consultative meeting centered on the conceptual framework underpinning the initiative and the highlights of the program design and implementation and resource implications.

A follow-up Strategy/Proposal Development Meeting on the model LGCs was held March 30-31 in Lagos. The meeting attended by LG chairs, consultants and CEDPA partners identified training needs, designed strategies for dialog/consultation and a process of monitoring the councils.

New books on women issues

The Rivers State chapter of International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) has taken the twin issues of marriage and women in governance beyond mere rhetoric. The NGO recently published two books as part of its collaboration with CEDPA/Nigeria on promoting women and children under the DG program.

The books are *Marriage in Nigeria* and *Women in Governance*. The latter gives a graphic summary of important activities covered by the DG project, the achievements and the roles of various project implementers. *Marriage in Nigeria* reveals the place of *Marriage in Nigeria*, the forms, the types, inheritance rights and prop-



IMPACT project review

NGO partners and project staff of the IMPACT project held a review meeting in April.

Clockwise from top left: Carol Lanvec, FHI/DC technical officer, Sujata Rana, FHI/DC program officer and NGO members review materials on display. Senior Vice-President FHI/DC William Schellstede (right) and Resident Advisor Dr Femi Oke address participants. Group session during the review meeting.

erty rights of women. The 36-page book is in four chapters while *Women in Governance* has 17 chapters and 89 pages.

CEDPA Receives Award

CEDPA/Nigeria received a Special Merit award during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH).

The award presentation took place during the anniversary lectures that was part of the celebration on December 2, 1999, at the organization's permanent office, near Army Officers' Mess, Ikolaba GRA, in Ibadan.

CEDPA was presented with the award in recognition of its immense contribution towards ARFH's development. Dr. Sola Odujinrin, represented CEDPA's Country Director, Dr. Enyantu Ifenne at the occasion.

FACTFILE

FHI/Nigeria

Resident Advisor
Dr. Femi Oke

Emmah Ekong	Senior Program Officer
Sina Falana	Behavior Change Communication Advisor
Julie Ahuchogu	Evaluation Officer
Fiona Nzegwu	Program Officer
Olaniyi Aridegbe	Senior Accountant
Saheed Olatokunboh Busari	Admin Secretary
Abiodun Adetoro	Southwest Cluster Manager, Ibadan
Adamu Imam	North Cluster Manager, Kano
Chukwudi J. Okoye	East Cluster Manager, Abuja
Grace Umoumoh,	Secretary, Abuja Field Office

Main Implementing Partners

- Onye Ahana Nwanneya (OANA), Abia State
- Population Development Forum (PODEF), Jigawa State
- Life Link Organization (LLO), Lagos
- Women Action Research Organization (WARO), Enugu
- National Union of Teachers (NUT), Katsina
- Environmental Development and Family Health Forum (EDFHO) Ekiti/Ondo
- Presbyterian General Assembly (PGA), Abia
- Muslim Sisters Organization (MSO), Kano
- The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Lagos
- Humane Health Organization (HHO), Anambra
- Safe Motherhood Ladies Association (SMLAS), Ebonyi
- Muslim Health Workers Ummah (MUHEWU), Kebbi
- Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, Nigeria (SWAAN), Kano
- Association for Development Options in Nigeria (ADON), Osun
- National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE)

Major Program Areas

- Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs)
- In-school Youth
- Religious Institutions
- Home-based Care and Support for PLWA
- Transport and Haulage Personnel
- Men & Women in the Workplace

FAMILY PLAN- NING

Saving women's lives is a priority, say Clinton, Ifenne and Malone

It was a high point of the 2000 World Women's Day celebration in Washington DC. CEDPA/Nigeria's resident advisor, Dr Enyantu Ifenne, informed the Congress how US support for family planning goes a long way to change the lives of women and

Full Text of Speech to US Congress, p.5

the society for the better. "The real human face of the social and economic crisis in Nigeria, is the face of women," Dr Ifenne stressed.

She illustrated her presentation with graphical tales of women who have been trau-

matized by the absence of family planning information and services. "In Kebbi in the north, Jamela aged 15, married at twelve, pregnant at thirteen. She was in labor for 4 days. The village barber cuts through her bladder and rectum. At fifteen she constantly leaks urine and feces. She was lucky. Thousands die. Many

more are permanently handicapped."

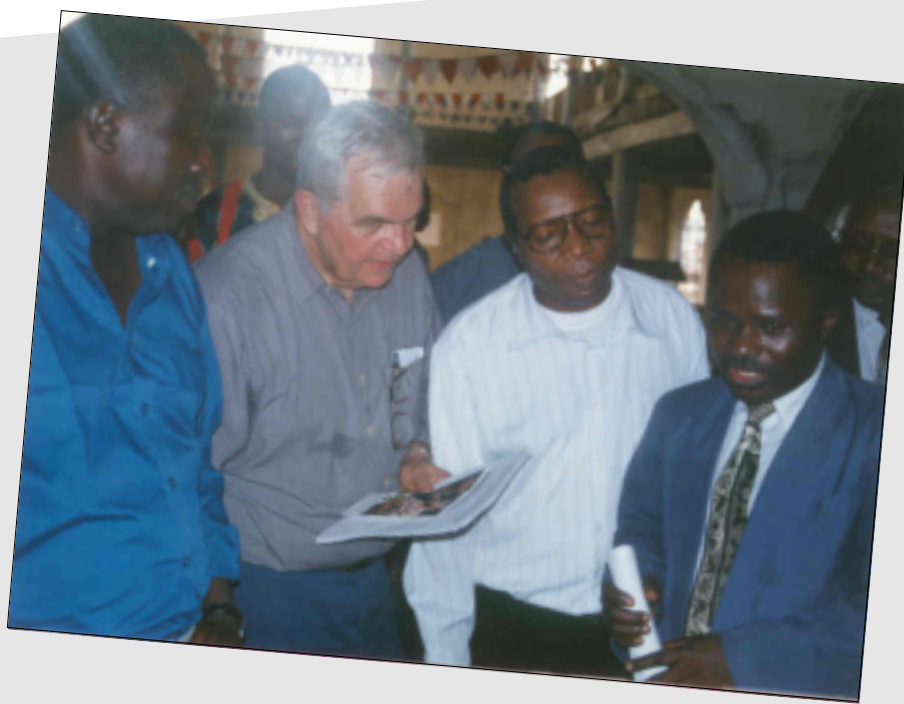
Dr Ifenne also disseminated how USAID support is helping Nigerian NGO networks to mobilize millions of women not only for family planning but also for child immunization and voter registration. She also highlighted other achievements of USAID supported activities such as women's rights training and passing laws against Female Genital Mutilation. She then

Continued on page 8

BASICS chief inspects Community Partners at work

BASICS Global Project Director, Dr Marc LaForce visited BASICS/Nigeria, December 4-8 to inspect the private sector model of community development implemented using Community Partners for Health (CPHs). Dr. LaForce spoke on his visit: "Seeing is believing how the private sector model works." He came, he saw, he heard, he felt and he was overwhelmed and became an apostle of the model.

Before joining the BASICS Project, Dr LaForce was the "Physician in Chief" for the Genesee Hospital, Rochester NY and a professor of medicine of about 30 years at the University of Rochester. He currently chairs the WHO Steering Committee on Epidemiology and Field Research.



•While attending a community meeting of all six CPHs in Lagos, Dr. LaForce (second left) was with Dr C. O. Omeziri chairman of Ajegunle CPH (left), Dr Oluropo Ayodele, BASICS/Nigeria Country Director and Dr E. O. Abikoye, chairman of Amukoko CPH who easily summed up the gains of the CPH model: "BASICS I was just a tip of the iceberg. Wait and see."

Bulletin reviews DG gains

Women's political empowerment gains in Nigeria are the focus of the February 2000 edition of Communication Impact, a two-page research bulletin from JHU/CCP in Baltimore. The edition reviews the DG Phase I project by JHU/CCP in Nigeria and discusses its evaluation, impact and lessons learnt. The project, says the bulletin, had significant impact on Nigerians, as there was confidence in the democratic process and a visible empowerment of women in political and legislative arenas.



Coming Up...

REGIONAL MULTIPARTY WORKSHOP, June 26. The first of a series of regional forums to discuss ethical issues and develop a future code of conduct for political parties.

FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATIONS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES, June 1-29, Borno State. Part of a series of nationwide consultations with political party officers in the states

STATE POLICY WORKSHOP, July 1-4. Regional workshop in Adamawa, Benue, Enugu, Kano, Lagos and Rivers states to enhance the capacity of legislators and executives.